JUN 3 1 1940 MFA

The Story of Four CLUNY PANELS

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La Dame a

(*The Lady of t*

REPRODUCTION of a Suite of Four Grand Tapestries now in the French Fine Art Museum of Cluny, and which were executed in the second half of the Fifteenth Century, forming part of the decoration of the old Chateau de Boussac, rebuilt by Jean de Brosse, Lord of Boussac, Chamberlain and Marshall of France (died 1433), and by Nicole de Chatillon, his wife.

These Tapestries, with the Arms, Device, and Emblems of the house of Le Viste, represent various scenes in the life of a Lady of noble birth of the Fifteenth Century. The House of Le Viste emanated from the upper class bourgeoisie of Lyons, but commenced in the Fourteenth Century to connect itself by marriages with some of the noblest families of Provence and Dauphine, and according to "Claude le Laboureur", and old French authority, "quitted Trade to devote itself to the Law, whereby learning, honour, nobility, and heraldic distinctions were acquired".

In the first of these Tapestries, the Lady standing is holding on her left wrist a Falcon, with her right hand she is taking some dainties from a finely-wrought gold cup, presented to her by a richly-attired Lady-in-Waiting, with these dainties she is about to feed the bird which is fluttering on her wrist; on the right and left are the Arms of the house of Le Viste, gules charged with an azure band with three silver crosses, "montants" on banner, and lance

a la Licorne

the Unicorn.)

supported by the Lion and the Unicorn. The same armorial bearings figure on the silk mantlets attached by Gold clasps to the necks of the Lion and Unicorn.

In the second the Lady in rich costume is standing, weaving a crown of roses; a young girl, attired as a waiting maid, is presenting a tray filled with flowers. To the right and left are the Lion and the Unicorn supporting the Arms of Le Viste.

In the third the Lady in brilliant costume, turban enriched with pearls and surmounted by an aigrette, is resting her hands upon the keys of an organ, upon the carved woodwork of which the Lion and Unicorn are apparent. A young girl on the other side of the instrument officiates at the bellows; on each side of the group are the Lion and Unicorn, bearing the Escutcheons and Banners with the Arms of Le Viste.

In the fourth Tapestry the Lady is represented in grand costume with a plumed turban. A young girl is presenting a coffer, from which she takes a richly-wrought chain of gold; on each side are the Lion and Unicorn with the Arms of the house of Le Viste.

STROHEIM & ROMANN
730 Fifth Avenue New York City

The Numbers of these Panels are

FALCON

Red	Blue	Cream
2511	2536	2547

WREATH

Red	Blue	Cream
2512	2537	2548

ORGANIST

Red	Blue	Cream
2513	2538	2549

JEWEL BOX

Red	Blue	Cream
2514	2539	2550

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Museum of Fine Arts, Boston